From: ebryan@lumenet.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 8:40pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I only wanted to add one wee voice to the heavyweight voices already
writing you. Please work to have the Windows Operating System separated
from the applications side. I don't need Office ported to Linux or any
such silliness but having the operating system so strongly biased toward
in-house applications seems to be the root of the many problems. It is
unfathomable to me that I had to give up using Netscape (which I was more
familiar with and preferred) because the owner of the OS wants me to use
Internet Explorer. I am only an average PC user but I can remove most
programs from my computer without mishap except Outlook Express or Internet
Explorer. Removing either of these causes the machine to develop serious
operating problems. This is wrong. Where will it end? By having Windows
will I eventually be required to discard other programs when Microsoft
decides to enter a new market?

I personally really like the idea of separating into two companies - OS and
applications. It seems there is enough demand to keep two companies
healthy and thriving. I believe that we would even see real advances in OS
rather than the superficial changes brought about by many "new" versions of
Windows. If the OS company were truly separated we wouldn't see programs
like Outlook having freedom to couple so closely; hence, some of the
horrendous security problems would be overcome. Applications like IE,
Outlook and Office should need to work with the operating system through
the same interface as non-Microsoft programs.

I know you must get tons of email so let me boil it down to "No favoritism
for in-house products".

Thank you for your time.

Earlene Bryan